

THE WASHINGTON POST

January 31, 1965

SUNDAY

**Turns in Mail Order Gun**

# Shot Father, Mother, Sister Dead, Schoolboy Son Reports to Police

BALTIMORE, Jan. 30 (AP) — A high school freshman, 15, the shy but brilliant son of a machinist, walked into nearby Parkville Police Station carrying a mail-order pistol in a shoulder holster.

"I have something personal to tell you," he said to an officer.

"I've just shot my mother and father."

Later he mentioned, too, the shooting of his sister.

Police said today this is how they learned that Melvin W. Knautz, 44, his wife, 45, and their daughter, Carol, 11, had been slain last night in their

home on Baltimore's northeast outskirts.

The son was charged with murder.

As he stood with his head bowed and untrimmed blond hair spilling over his ears and forehead, Juvenile Court authorities waived jurisdiction this morning. The tall and slender youth will be tried as an adult.

Inspector E. F. Adams, chief of Baltimore County detectives, said the suspect arrived at the police station shortly before midnight and poured out his story to Lt. Charles Krach.

The inspector said Krach asked about a weapon midway

through the youth's account and the youngster reached under his coat, handed over a holster-encased .38-caliber foreign revolver and surrendered a pocketful of cartridges. The weapon arrived last week from a California mail-order house.

Knautz, for 15 years a worker at the Bendix-Friez plant in nearby Towson, Md., had been a scoutmaster because of his son's interest in scouting.

The youth ran away from home last year but returned three days later. Authorities investigating the incident said it seemed to involve resentment over discipline undergone by the youth because of a spat with his sister.